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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, fountain of every blessing, during this season of gratitude we pause to thank You for the gifts You have given us and all humanity. Thank You for all the beauty You have placed in our world, for the loveliness of the Earth, sea, and sky. Thank You for great art to see, great music to hear, great books of prose and poetry to read. Thank You for the nimbleness of minds and hands that enable people to find ways of defeating diseases and easing pain. Thank You for generous hearts that give to help the less fortunate. Thank You for our power to love and for the opportunities to lose ourselves in a great cause. Thank You for the ability to harness nature's forces and to make fertile the desert. Thank You for our Senators and for all who labor many hours with them for a world at peace. Thank You for our military and the courageous sacrifices of our men and women in harm's way.

Above all else, we thank You for saving us by giving us Yourself. Accept this, our sacrifice of thanksgiving and of praise.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will get off to a quick start in the Senate. We actually left not that many hours ago, and we are making real progress in terms of moving the Nation's business forward. This will be a very busy day.

In a moment I will call up the continuing resolution which will keep Government operations funded beyond midnight tonight. We are starting that early. We are voting early this morning, in large part to get it completed here and sent to the President so it can be signed by midnight tonight.

Senator HARKIN will have an amendment which we expect to vote on at or around 9:30. After that, I will have more to say on the schedule itself. But we do have the continuing resolution, we will have the Harkin amendment, we are waiting for several pieces of legislation from the House of Representatives and several conference reports: MilCon or Military Quality of Life, Transportation TTHUD bills, the PATRIOT Act. We also have an adjournment resolution we must pass later today and several other conference-related matters.

It is going to be a very busy day. I do ask for the cooperation and patience of all Senators as we cover a lot and have a number of rollcall votes over the course of the day.

In terms of the schedule for tomorrow, or Sunday, or Monday—as the day proceeds, as soon as I have information brought to me and we determine the best way to handle that on the floor, I will be making those announcements over the course of the day.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. FRIST. I now ask unanimous consent the Senate begin consideration of H.J. Res. 72, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ISAKSON). Is there objection?

The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am reserving the right to object, to speak with the leader for a moment about a situation that is developing at home and one of which he is certainly aware.

I understand that the motion that has been put forward would allow the Congress to go home for approximately 30 days and to come back in the middle of December to finish our business. I wanted to ask the leader if it is his intention when we come back to press forward for the supplemental bill that the senior Senator from Mississippi, Senator COCHRAN, and others have been working on for relief for the gulf coast. It is a very important piece of legislation, and many people, individuals and businesses, large and small, have been waiting for some direct, significant funding. I wanted to ask the leader from Tennessee what his intentions are when we get back, at least as he can press the Senate and press our colleagues in the House to move that piece of legislation.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the issues the distinguished Senator from Louisiana comments on and mentions are something we take very seriously here. As she well knows, my personal commitment, the commitment of leadership on both sides of the aisle, is to address the issues. We have worked very hard, both in a personal sense and in an institutional sense. With regard to the latter, we passed 21 separate pieces of legislation that have responded to many of the immediate needs. I well recognize these needs are ongoing. We are going to need to stay on top of them, which I pledge and leadership pledges to continue to do.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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